

that is before the election, the only thing they fear. Even their own guy, the former Iraqi administrator, told an audience yesterday the U.S. went into Iraq without enough troops. The looting, the violence, there was no way to stop it. Paul Bremer said this in a direct quote: "We never had enough troops on the ground." Later, aides said his comments were meant to be off the record. Apparently, that is where the administration keeps the truth these days, off the record.

Likewise, Rumsfeld told the Council on Foreign Relations in New York yesterday that he knows of "no strong, hard evidence linking Saddam to al Qaeda." When that one got into the news media, the Secretary said he was misunderstood. I just bet he was.

I know one person who was not misunderstood, the Vice President, who spoke on the record in a disclosed location, Seattle, Washington. This is worth repeating, given the Vice Presidential debates tonight. The Seattle Post Intelligencer and its columnist Joel Connelly found a transcript of a 1992 Seattle appearance by then Defense Secretary DICK CHENEY. He was explaining why the U.S. had left Saddam in Iraq after the first Gulf War, and this is a direct quote: "And the question in my mind is how many additional American casualties is Saddam worth? And the answer is not that damned many. So I think we got it right, both when we decided to expel him from Kuwait, but also when the President made the decision we had achieved our objectives and we were not going to get bogged down in the problems of trying to take over and govern Iraq." Not going to get bogged down.

Does anyone think the Vice President will talk straight about this later tonight? Not a chance. And they wonder why the kids get it. Every time this administration says there will be no draft, the kids get online and the phones to my office and the office of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) ring off the hook. The kids know the difference between the truth and Republican rhetoric.

H.R. 163 is out of solitary confinement, and it is in the open. What 18-year-old can believe an administration who said there were weapons of mass destruction, knowing their own people doubted it? What 18-year-old can believe they do not intend to get them to Iraq, whether they call it a draft or a precondition for a college loan? What 18-year-old can believe they will tell it straight when they pronounce "mission accomplished" over 900 casualties ago?

The kids know, Mr. Speaker. They know just like other generations. The kids are forcing their parents to look at reality and see the truth. The kids may have funny colored hair or a ring in their ear or nose, but they have a good head on their shoulders. Punk rock music may not be the in thing to listen to, but these kids are making voting the in thing to do, and the Republicans are terrified.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### LINK BETWEEN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND ATTACK ON UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, tonight there is going to be a debate in Cleveland, Ohio, my home State. I believe probably millions and millions of Americans will be watching. One of the things I hope they listen for is a question that I feel certain the Vice President will receive.

The Vice President, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, continues to say that there was a link between Iraq and Saddam Hussein and the attack upon our country.

□ 2100

That is a very fundamental thing for the American people to consider, because I believe most Americans, if they believe that Saddam Hussein was responsible for attacking our country on September 11, 2001, they would feel that what we have done by going into Iraq was totally justified.

But all of the evidence from really authoritative sources, and I am talking about the 9/11 Commission and most recently I am talking about the FBI, has indicated that there was no connection between Saddam Hussein, Iraq and the attack upon America. Just yesterday, the FBI indicated that as far as they can tell, there was no collaboration between Saddam Hussein and the al Qaeda terrorism network.

And so we find ourselves tonight bogged down in a war that has consumed over 1,000 American lives, has resulted in the injury of nearly 7,000 American soldiers, and we are finding ourselves unable to establish any connection between Iraq and the attack upon our country. And so while we are losing soldiers, while we are spending billions of dollars, while we are seeing the terrible injuries to our soldiers in Iraq, Osama bin Laden, the individual who was in fact responsible for attacking our country, the al Qaeda terrorism network, is now spreading throughout the world.

What we have done in Iraq is not unlike what some of my friends used to do as young kids, going into the woods

and finding a hornets' nest and throwing rocks or walnuts at it and stirring up the hornets and then having to suffer with the consequences of that. There is a way you can capture the hornets' nest as a trophy to hang in your barn or in your garage, but you need to use your head, you need to be prepared, you need to take equipment, you need to have a screen to put over yourself, you need to go to that hornets' nest when there is not a lot of hornet activity around it. You need to plug the hole where the hornets go in and out of that nest before you attempt to take it from the tree.

But, no, that is not the way we attacked or planned the attack on Iraq. It was like a kid taking a stick and starting to beat a hornets' nest. The hornets are now out there.

Iraq has become a hotbed for terrorism. The President says Iraq is the central part of our war on terrorism. It may be now, but it was not before this war started. There is no evidence that the terror network was operating in Iraq. But now we have created a situation where terrorists from all over the world are gathering in that country, and they are fighting and they are killing our people.

Our resources are being consumed. And the President has no plan to free us from this morass and the Vice President continues to say to the American people that there was a connection, in spite of the 9/11 Commission report, in spite of what the FBI says.

I believe the American people want us to fight the terrorists. I want us to fight the terrorists. That is why nearly all of us, save one, voted to support the war in Afghanistan. And as Senator KERRY reminded the President in the debate a few nights ago, it was Osama bin Laden who attacked us. It was the al Qaeda terror network that attacked us. It was not Saddam Hussein and Iraq. The American people need to be aware of that as they decide who they want to be the person that makes the decisions regarding our foreign policy in the years ahead of us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)